

SECRET

19 October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: KURGVEL, Aleks (AESCREEN)

1. Shortly after lunch on Friday, 15 October 1965, I received a telephone call from [] in SR/O/AC. [] who administers the AESCREEN complex, informed me that she had been called by [] (Office of Security) regarding Subject. As far as she could reconstruct from the meager information, papers belonging to Alex Kurgvel were found in or around the White House grounds. She was assured nothing was classified or which indicated his connection with AESCREEN was in the packet. [] noted that it was a collection of assorted notes that had to do with an Estonian emigre organization and had Kurgvel's name written on them. [] gave SR/O/AC the telephone number (175-830) of Ed Keblacek, of the Washington, FBI field office and told [] that Kurgvel could go to Keblacek's office anytime and claim his papers. The entire incident was played in low-key.

2. I gave [] C/SR/O/PT, a rundown of the incident and suggested that we contact the Agency FBI liaison and see if we couldn't get to the bottom of this. [] called [] and after a brief statement of the problem we both went to see [] Acting upon the information available to us, [] called [] and indicated that we would like a further explanation of the incident. We were assured by [] through [] that there wasn't anything to explain. According to the FBI, they were in possession of certain non-classified papers lost by Mr. Kurgvel and all they wanted to do was return them to him. There was no particular hurry and Mr. Kurgvel could pick these papers up anytime at his convenience.

3. Approximately at 1545, Mr. Keblacek returned [] call. C/SR/O/PT explained to him that he was Mr. Kurgvel's supervisor. Also Mr. Kurgvel normally takes the 1630 train to NYC on Fridays. Would it be acceptable to have him call at the FBI offices on Monday? Again, the

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entire incident was played down by Mr. Keblacek. He said there was no particular hurry and that Monday would be fine.

4. On Monday morning I called Mr. Keblacek to verify the appointment. Then at 1030 hours I went to the AESCREEN site for Mr. Kurgvel. Together we arrived at the FBI field office in the Old Post Office Building on 10th and Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. at approximately 1040. I repeated to Mr. Kurgvel the contact instruction given me earlier by Mr. Keblacek. I awaited his return in the lobby. According to Aleks Kurgvel, he arrived at the fourth floor of the building, where Mr. Keblacek had told me his office was located. He was told by the receptionist that he should report to the fifth floor instead and register with the person on duty there. Which he did. After about five minutes waiting in the fifth floor receptionist's office, Mr. Keblacek came in and introduced himself to Mr. Kurgvel. The entire meeting, which lasted about 15 minutes, took place in that office. The following is Mr. Kurgvel's account of the meeting.

5. Mr. Keblacek apologized to Mr. Kurgvel for any embarrassment he may have caused him. He told Mr. Kurgvel that he had tried to contact him personally, but did not have any luck. As second best, he called [] his "contact man" and had the request relayed to Kurgvel. Mr. Kurgvel indicated that he had the distinct impression that the FBI representative knew by whom Subject was employed, but he did not know where. He asked Mr. Kurgvel if he knew where he had lost the papers. Mr. Kurgvel indicated that it must have been sometime in the late Spring or early Summer 1965 while he was travelling back and forth to work. He recalled that the transfer point for the S-2 bus was in the vicinity of the White House. He added that it was raining the day he lost the papers and first noticed that they were not in his possession upon arrival at his apartment. He notified the local police precinct. They advised him to write them a letter re his loss. Because Mr. Kurgvel did not place too much value on the papers, with the exception of a notebook which contained the birthdays of friends and relatives, he did not follow through.

6. Mr. Keblacek then asked Subject where the latter lived. Mr. Kurgvel told him on 16th Street, Washington, D.C. but that his address was in New York City where his family was living. Mr. Keblacek showed enough interest to ask Mr. Kurgvel how many persons were living there (assuming immediate family). There evidently was no follow-up to this question.

He then asked Aleks Kurgvel if Kurgvel knew the Estonian emigration, especially a certain Estonian who was arriving in the United States from Canada. He did not mention the name, rather he "hemmed-and-hawed" and when Aleks Kurgvel didn't pick up the cue, Keblacek began to spell the name slowly as if trying to recall it. He told Mr. Kurgvel that this Estonian, whose name was SIIMRE, went from Estonia to Sweden in 1944, then to Canada. Kurgvel volunteered that he was aware of the name but did not know the individual personally. Mr. Keblacek continued along this line, this time noting that SIIMRE had been to the United States on several occasions to "some area in New Jersey". Mr. Kurgvel asked him if it could be "Lakewood New Jersey". Mr. Keblacek said that it was.

7. Mr. Keblacek then asked if Mr. Kurgvel would mind, if he, Mr. Keblacek, could call upon him from time to time to ask Mr. Kurgvel's assistance in questions dealing with the Estonian emigration. Mr. Kurgvel, naturally, said he did not mind and there was an exchange of telephone numbers. Mr. Keblacek assured Mr. Kurgvel that this would not be during working hours and would not take him away from his job.

8. Evidently in response to Subject's question, Mr. Keblacek told Subject that the papers had been found in the vicinity of a gate (A-5 sic) leading to the White House by the Secret Service. Not knowing what to do with them, they sent copies to the FBI, retaining the originals. He then asked Subject to note if all the papers were there. Mr. Kurgvel seemed satisfied that they were but was not absolutely sure. It is Mr. Kurgvel's opinion that the item which probably caused the interest was a notebook upon whose cover was inscribed "CODE" (with a series of number, i.e. 25-38). Below the CODE title there was an imprint of a gold crown and the letters S and B bracketing the crown. He explained this item to me (and to the FBI representative) that it was part of some scrap note paper he had gotten from the British when he was a POW in their camp. Mr. Keblacek assured Mr. Kurgvel that he would try to get the originals back from the Secret Service, but couldn't be too sure, intimating that "you never know what the Secret Service would do with the papers and they probably have them filed in their office." There was no definite date set for future contacts.

9. Comments:

a. Aleks Kurgvel told me that he had the notes in his possession to review the contents prior to a meeting of the

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Legion of Estonian Liberation, an emigre organization incorporated in the State of New York, Mr. Kurgvel is 2nd Vice President.

b. The lost notes contained: (a) A copy of the Certificate of Incorporation, (b) A report he wrote when he was representative-by-proxy for the Detroit chapter of the organization, (c) Notes he took during a meeting held in Seabrook, New Jersey at which Subject was one of the three leaders, (d) Expense Accounting for 1964-65 and the Projected Fiscal Plan for 1955-56 for the organization, (e) Copy of the New York Chapter's rules (f) A written analysis of the projected separation of the New York chapter from the national organization, and (g) the notebook mentioned above, with the birthdays marked in it.

c. [redacted] and the undersigned both talked to Mr. Keblacek. [redacted] used his true name and the undersigned used the name [redacted], by which he is known to Mr. Kurgvel.

SR/O/PT

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